

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 25/7/2026) Solution

¹ S	A	² L	T	³ B	U	⁴ S	H		⁵ A	⁶ S	Y	⁷ L	U	⁸ M
T		E		L		O		⁹ A		A		U		A
¹⁰ A	G	G	R	O		¹¹ C	O	L	O	N	I	S	E	R
N		C		O		I		B		E		T		I
¹² D	R	U	G	D	E	A	L	E	R		¹³ H	Y	M	N
S		T		Y		L		R		¹⁴ C				A
	¹⁵ S	T	O	O	P	S		¹⁶ T	R	U	S	¹⁷ T	E	D
¹⁸ W		E		A		¹⁹ E	Y	E		R		H		E
²⁰ H	E	R	E	T	I	C		²¹ I	S	R	A	E	L	
I				H		U		N		Y		R		²² D
²³ P	O	²⁴ R	K		²⁵ P	R	E	S	U	P	P	O	S	E
L		A		²⁶ F		I		T		A		Y		F
²⁷ A	P	P	O	I	N	T	E	E		²⁸ S	P	A	C	E
S		I		N		Y		I		T		L		N
²⁹ H	E	D	G	E	R		³⁰ I	N	C	E	N	S	E	D

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 SALT BUSH	Plant located in arid region arranged last bus in front of hotel (8)	Anagram of LAST + BUS + H
5 ASYLUM	Harbour city ultimately forming part of a poor area (6)	cit(Y) inside (A + SLUM)
10 AGGRO	A mixture of grog responsible for offensive behaviour (5)	A + anagram of GROG
11 COLONISER	Pioneer is accommodated by company person with few friends (9)	IS inside (CO + LONER)
12 DRUG DEALER	E-trader, perhaps, treated large dude right (4,6)	Anagram of LARGE DUDE + R
13 HYMN	Church song that fellow heard (4)	Sounds like HIM
15 STOOPS	Duck in close with small ducks (6)	(O inside STOP) + S
16 TRUSTED	Front of tank suffered from corrosion for sure (7)	(T)ank + RUSTED
19 EYE	Look at pieces painted in pale yellow (3)	pale Y Yellow
20 HERETIC	Dissident's present medical problem (7)	HERE + TIC
21 ISRAEL	Re-directed airlines not flying in a Middle Eastern country (6)	Anagram of AIRLINES minus IN
23 PORK	Meat slices from shop or kiosk (4)	shoP OR Kiosk
25 PRESUPPOSE	Accept uppers organised by model (10)	Anagram of UPPERS + POSE
27 APPOINTEE	One nominated antipope replaced Pope finally (9)	Anagram of ANTIPOPE + pop(E)
28 SPACE	Special serve that wins play (5)	SP + ACE
29 HEDGER	One who works in the garden with hard trimming tool (6)	H + EDGER
30 INCENSED	Audience from hotel noticed fuming (8)	Sounds like INN SENSED

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 STANDS	Stone, including seconds, doesn't change (6)	ST + AND + S
2 LEG-CUTTER	Conclusion of retiring copper included in letter delivery (3-6)	[retirin(G) + CU} inside LETTER
3 BLOODY OATH	Old boy switched oxygen at hospital - that's certainly true (6,4)	ANagram of OLD BOY + O + AT + H
4 SOCIAL SECURITY	Income support from drunken cleric is out, say (6,8)	Anagram of CLERIC IS OUT SAY
6 SANE	Balanced article included in middle of insert (4)	AN inside in(SE)rt
7 LUSTY	Healthy core of valued collection of pigs? (5)	va(LU)ed + STY
8 MARINADE	Man, briefly spotted by a diner, ordered flavour enhancer (8)	(MA)n + anagram of A DINER
9 ALBERT EINSTEIN	Aluminium and moulded tin beer mug, a really smart one (6,8)	AL + anagram of TIN BEER + STEIN
14 CURRY PASTE	Kneaded pastry stored in preserve with spicy ingredient (5,5)	Anagram of PASTRY inside CURE
17 THE ROYALS	King staying in hotel, say, manipulated family members? (3,6)	R inside anagram of HOTEL SAY
18 WHIPLASH	Injury to neck joint left in soothing lotion (8)	(HIP + L) inside WASH
22 DEFEND	Guard is fed up with objective (6)	FED reversed + END
24 RAPID	Fleet quietly moved in to invade (5)	P inside RAID
26 FINE	Fair penalty (4)	Double Definition