

# AFR Cryptic (Saturday 30/5/2026) Solution

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

| Across       | Clue   | Explanation                       |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 DUGITE     | Snake grasped it easily at the start (6)                                     | DUG + IT + (E)asily               |
| 4 MANDATES   | Individual determines the age of charges (8)                                 | MAN + DATES                       |
| 9 SKATE      | Runner and swimmer (5)   | Double Definition                 |
| 10 SPRINKLER | It's used to water part of green left in care of retired representatives (9) | (RINK + L) inside (REPS reversed) |
| 11 BRIOCHE   | Zest applied to half of cheese roll (7)                                      | BRIO + (CHE)ese                   |
| 12 PATIENT   | Sick person is clear about onset of illness (7)                              | PATENT outside (I)llness          |
| 13 SHIP      | Send head of security in (4)   | (S)ecurity + HIP                  |
| 14 ORNAMENT  | Leading light or star not contracted? (8)                                    | OR + NAME + N(o)T                 |
| 17 DECEASED  | Expired case requiring editing in legal document (8)                         | Anagram of CASE inside DEED       |
| 19 PIER      | Early type of spacecraft losing track of one landing site (4)                | PIONEER minus ONE                 |
| 22 RISES UP  | Ruse is organised by leader of political rebels (5,2)                        | Anagram of RUSE IS + (P)olitics   |
| 24 PASTERN   | Pressure applied to a hard part of horse's foot (7)                          | P + A + STERN                     |
| 25 PROVISION | Something supplied for an imaginative plan (9)                               | PRO + VISION                      |
| 26 CADET     | Trainee made less money primarily in court (5)                               | MADE minus (M)oney inside CT      |
| 27 CLEARING  | Close call about each evacuation (8)   | (CL + RING) outside EA            |
| 28 SOURCE    | Author's cheekiness apparent in speech (6)                                   | Sounds like SAUCE                 |

| <b>Down</b>          | <b>Clue</b>   | <b>Explanation</b>                      |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 1 DISABUSE           | Is a coach in middle of ordeal set straight? (8)                                | (IS + A + BUS)<br>inside or(DE)all      |
| 2 GRATIFIED          | Pleased with \$10formally approved (9)  | G + RATIFIED                            |
| 3 TRENCH             | Ditch fish spread over the banks of river (6)                                   | TENCH outside R                         |
| 5 AEROPLANE<br>SPIN  | A lean pro messed up, especially in a wrestling<br>manoeuvre (9,4)              | Anagram of A LEAN<br>PRO + ESP + IN     |
| 6 DINETTE            | Unruly characters in detention missing out on a place to<br>eat (7)             | Anagram of<br>DETENTION minus<br>ON     |
| 7 TILDE              | Diacritical mark left in withdrawn rewrite (5)                                  | L inside (EDIT<br>reversed)             |
| 8 SURETY             | American backed renewed tyre guarantee (6)                                      | US reversed +<br>anagram of TYRE        |
| 10 SMEAR<br>CAMPAIGN | Confused manager is needled by side's attack on<br>reputation (5,8)             | Anagram of<br>MANGER IS outside<br>CAMP |
| 15 TAIL-<br>ENDER    | Poor striker thanks one financial institution willing to<br>advance money (4-5) | TA + I + LENDER                         |
| 16 BRUNETTE          | Dark web harnessed by cruelly rapacious person (8)                              | NET inside BRUTE                        |
| 18 CASHIER           | Discharge one taking part in search at sea (7)                                  | I inside anagram of<br>SEARCH           |
| 20 TROPIC            | Worldly division, right, included in subject matter (6)                         | R inside TOPIC                          |
| 21 PSYCHO            | Participants in autopsy chose headcase (6)                                      | autoPSY CHOse                           |
| 23 SHORE             | Prop is not happy about back from Penrith (5)                                   | SORE outside<br>penrit(H)               |
|                      |   |   |
|                      |   |   |
|                      |   |   |