AFR Cryptic (Saturday 14/10/2023) Solution

¹ P	0	² P	Ε	³ D	0	⁴ M		⁵ D	Ε	⁶ В	Α	⁷ T	Ε	⁸ S
R		0		Α		Е		Α		Α		Е		Т
⁹ I	S	L	Α	М		¹⁰ T	ı	M	Ε	S	Н	Α	R	Ε
Ε		Α		Р		Н		Ν		М		S		Ε
11 _S	U	R	٧	ı	٧	0	R		¹² E	Α	S	Е	U	Р
T		В		S		D		¹³ C		Т				I
	¹⁴ T	Е	С	Н	N	ı	С	Α	L	ı	Т	¹⁵	Е	S
¹⁶ A		Α				C		Ν				Т		Н
17C	Α	R	D	¹⁸	N	Α	L	Ν	כ	¹⁹ M	В	Е	R	
С				С		L		0		Α		R		²⁰ B
²¹ E	R	²² A	S	Е	D		²³	N	ı	Т	ı	Α	Т	Ε
Р		Р		L		²⁴ C		В		Т		Т		G
²⁵ T	0	Р	В	Α	N	Α	N	Α		²⁶ E	L	I	Т	Ε
Ε		Α		N		N		L		R		٧		Т
²⁷ D	Ε	L	U	D	Ε	S		²⁸ L	Ε	S	S	Ε	Ε	S

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 POPEDOM	Catholic leader's office procedure Father knocked	(MODE + POP)
	back (7)	reversed
5 DEBATES	Top performer turned around club's formal	SEED reversed outside
	discussions (7)	BAT
9 ISLAM	Religion is liturgy, primarily, and a mass (5)	IS + (L)iturgy + A + M
10 TIMESHARE	Drain containing mesh adjoining a jointly owned	TIRE outside (MESH
	property (9)	+ A)
11 SURVIVOR	Virus affected three characters in the middle of	Anagram of VIRUS +
	"Divorce", a reality TV show (8)	di(VOR)ce
12 EASE UP	Slow down vehicle finally, and pause for a change	vehicl(E) + anagram of
	(4,2)	PAUSE
14	At clinic he varied restrictions and literal rule	Anagram of AT
TECHNICALITIES	interpretations (14)	CLINIC HE + TIES
17 CARDINAL	Eccentric Melburnian maligned a valued figure (8,6)	CARD + anagram of
NUMBER		MELBURNIAN
21 ERASED	Letters collected by worker as editor should be	workER AS EDitor
	removed (6)	
23 INITIATE	Enjoying success, I had a meal with new member (8)	IN IT + I + ATE
25 TOP BANANA	Important person to lead a family member back to	TO + PB + A + NAN +
	Australia (3,6)	australi(A)
26 ELITE	Selected "E" letter in Scrabble put down the wrong way (5)	(E + TILE reversed)
27 DELUDES	People generally adopting the Spanish kids (7)	DUDES outside EL
28 LESSEES	Tenants, without notice, returned (7)	LESS + (SEE reversed)

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 PRIEST	Minister asks a lot of questions before closing of	PRIES +
	parliament (6)	parliamen(T)
2 POLAR BEAR	Soft sort of arboreal animal used to a cold climate (5,4)	P + anagram of ARBOREAL
3 DAMPISH	A little wet politician, one dressed in style (7)	(MP + I) inside DASH
4 METHODICAL	Drug overdose, one caught by a large orderly (10)	METH + OD + I + C $+ A + L$
5 DAMN	Criticise nuts sent up north (4)	MAD reversed + N
6 BASMATI	Rice left out of lamb as it stewed (7)	Anagram of (l)AMB AS IT
7 TEASE	Time spent with moderate guy (5)	T + EASE
8 STEEPISH	Soak is hot and quite high (8)	STEEP + IS + H
13 CANNONBALL	Fired one can not shortly head to nearby dance party (10)	CAN + NO(t) + (N)earby + BALL
15 ITERATIVE	Repetitious item not completed by four in class (9)	ITE(m) + (IV inside RATE)
16 ACCEPTED	Regular performed outside clubs with record (8)	ACTED outside (C + EP)
18 ICELAND	I caught African antelope where it's very cold (7)	I + C + ELAND
19 MATTERS	Temperature recorded in polluted stream makes a difference (7)	T inside anagram of STREAM
20 BEGETS	Fathers, for example, featuring in plays for money (6)	EG inside BETS
22 APPAL	A friend experiencing internal pressure and shock (5)	P inside (A + PAL)
24 CANS	Light meal mostly served up in tins (4)	(SNAC)k reversed