NEWSLETTER



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AUSTRALIAN LEGAL NEWS

First Person Found Guilty Under Victoria's Nazi Salute Ban

Jacob Hersant, 25, was found guilty of performing the Nazi salute in Victoria, becoming the first person charged under new laws banning the gesture. The incident took place on October 27, 2023, just days after the ban was enforced. Video evidence showed Hersant making the salute outside the County Court and making statements like "Australia for the white man, heil Hitler." He pleaded not guilty, arguing that he didn't perform the salute and that the charge violated his right to political expression. However, Magistrate Brett Sonnet ruled against him.

Australia Defends Criticism of Iran's Missile Strikes Amid **Diplomatic Tensions**

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) defended its criticism of Iran's missile strikes on Israel, saying it "makes no apology" after the Iranian government summoned Australia's ambassador, Ian McConville. DFAT condemned the strikes as "reckless" and escalating the risk of a regional war. This is the second time in a month McConville has been summoned by Iran, following an earlier incident over a pro-LGBTQ+ post. Meanwhile, Iran's ambassador to Australia, Ahmad Sadeghi, faced criticism for praising Hezbollah's assassinated leader, but Prime Minister Albanese rejected calls to expel him.



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MORE LEGAL NEWS

New XEC COVID-19 Variant Detected in Australia

A new COVID-19 variant, XEC, has been detected in Australia, raising concerns about a potential summer surge in cases. XEC is a recombinant variant, combining two Omicron subvariants, KS 1.1 and KP 3.3.

It was likely first found in Germany around May or June and has spread to 29 countries, including the US, UK, and China. The WHO began monitoring XEC in September. Experts suggest it could become the dominant strain by the end of October.

Tennis Legend Rafael Nadal to Retire **After Final Davis Cup Appearance**

The tennis community is paying tribute to Rafael Nadal, the twenty-two-time Grand Slam champion, following his announcement that he will retire at the end of the season. Nadal's last appearance will be for Spain in the Davis Cup finals in Malaga next month. His retirement puts an end to ongoing speculation about his career, which has been affected by injuries in recent years, including a hip injury that kept him sidelined for much of 2023.