snake oil

1.something that is claimed to be a solution to a problem, but is not effective

2

snake oil salesman/peddler

someone who deceives people by persuading them to accept false information, solutions that are not effective etc

***Fairfax sends ripples into parliament debate:***

**WAYNE SWAN, ACTING PRIME MINISTER: The Leader of the Opposition is a snake oil salesman. He has been slithering around the country, slithering around the country with a whole series of poisonous messages and a forked tongue, telling untruths about the impact of the carbon price on electricity.**